Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (new) An ink fountain for a printing machine, having a base with a blade holder, in which said blade holder comprises a number of adjacent sectors which can be moved by adjusting means in order to vary the distance between said sectors and the circumference of an ink fountain roller, said ink fountain additionally comprising a blade which is interposed between said sectors and the circumference of the ink fountain roller and which has a continuous edge intended to maintain a defined ink thickness on the ink fountain roller, the ink thickness being adjusted by said continuous edge of the blade and defined by the position of said sectors, which is transmitted to said blade, wherein said blade rests along a plane thereof directly on a surface of said sectors and is held fixedly with respect to said blade holder and includes a ceramic deposit to reinforce said continuous edge of the blade.

17. (new) The ink fountain as claimed in claim 16, wherein the blade is a metal blade.

18. (new) The ink fountain as claimed in claim 16, in which the blade is screwed into the blade holder.

19. (new) The ink fountain as claimed in claim 16, in which the blade is held on the blade holder by a fastening piece.

20. (new) The ink fountain as claimed in claim 16, in which the sectors are moved by deformation.

21. (new) The ink fountain as claimed in claim 16, in which the sectors are moved by rotation.

22. (new) The ink fountain as claimed in claim 16, in which a deformable plastic is deposited between the sectors to improve the sealing between them.

23. (new) An ink fountain for a printing machine, having a base with a blade holder, in which said blade holder comprises a number of adjacent sectors which can be moved by adjusting means in order to vary the distance between said sectors and the circumference of an ink fountain roller, said ink fountain additionally comprising a blade which is interposed between said sectors and the circumference of the ink fountain roller and which has a continuous edge intended to maintain a defined ink thickness on the ink fountain roller, the ink thickness being adjusted by said continuous edge of the blade and defined by the position of said sectors, which is transmitted to said blade, wherein said blade rests along a plane thereof directly on a surface of said sectors and is held fixedly with respect to said blade holder and includes a ceramic deposit to reinforce said continuous edge of the blade, in which a deformable plastic is deposited between the sectors to improve the sealing between them.